

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, APER, ELAB

SUBJECT: ILO CANDIDACY: COORDINATOR ILO PROGRAMS ON WOMEN
AND YOUNG AND OLDER WORKERS

REF: A) GENEVA 1244, B) GENEVA 961, C) GENEVA 448

1. DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR AGREE WITH MISSION
(REFTEL C) RE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING APPOINTMENT OF SOVIET
NATIONAL TO HIGH-VISIBILITY AND SENSITIVE POSITION OF
COORDINATOR SUBJECT ILO PROGRAMS. SUCH AN APPOINTMENT
WOULD BE ESPECIALLY IRONIC DURING OBSERVANCE OF UN INTER-
NATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN FACE OF SOVIET OPPOSITION TO THE
CONVENING OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (IWY) CONFERENCE
IN 1975. SOVIET HAS INSTEAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR
COMPETING WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (WIDF
IS COMMUNIST FRONT NGO) SPONSORED WORLD MEETING AND SERIES
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OF PRELIMINARY REGIONAL MEETINGS. ALSO, USSR HAS MADE NO

CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN IWY VOLUNTARY FUND AS HAVE SOME
TWENTY OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING MANY WE'S.

2. IN VIEW MAYMI, CARRON (CANADA) AND SOVIET CANDIDACIES
DEPARTMENT SEES PROBLEM NOW ESSENTIALLY AS A TACTICAL ONE
OF HOW WE CAN BEST ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING APPOINT-
MENT OF SOVIET NATIONAL WITHOUT AT SAME TIME UNNECESSARILY
PROVOKING ATMOSPHERE OF US-USSR CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE.

DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO CONSULT AT
THIS STAGE WITH CANADIANS AND OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS
TO ASCERTAIN POSSIBILITY OF CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF
EITHER MAYMI, CARRON OR OTHER WESTERN ORIENTED CANDIDATE.

3. IT WOULD ALSO BE RELEVANT TO KNOW WHAT BLANCHARD'S
"PROMISE" TO USSR MEANS INsofar AS CURRENT STATUS OF
FREE-WORLD CANDIDATES IS CONCERNED. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES
HE HAS NOT CLOSED HIS MIND TO THESE CANDIDATES AND WILL
CONSIDER THEM ON THEIR MERITS. KISSINGER

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